REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated March 8, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on September 7, 2007.

Claims 1 and 7 are hereby amended, and claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 12–14 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, claims 1–5 and 7–14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; claims 1–5 and 7–14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for not reciting subject matter within one of the statutory classes; claims 1–5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application, Publication No. 2003/0061126 by Erke, et al. (hereinafter "Erke") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,539,652 to Tegethoff (hereinafter "Tegethoff"); claims 7 and 10–14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Erke in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,738,748 to Wetzer (hereinafter "Wetzer"), and further in view of Tegethoff; and claim 8–9 are deemed to have allowable subject matter.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 8–9 contain allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 1–5 and 7–14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Particularly, the Examiner asserts that "the current amendment requiring the plurality of statistical models to be first computed and then historical data being collected is not disclosed in the originally presented specification." (Office Action, p. 3). As discussed in the telephonic interview of September 7, 2007, paragraph 57 of the specification provides an example of the claimed subject matter, wherein "for each model, a forecast of the expected number of premature removals over the months between JAN01 and AUG01 was made using the actual flying hours and cycles for each fleet during the same period (computing a plurality of statistical models). ... Then, these results were compared to what actually happened between JAN01 and AUG01 with regards to unscheduled component removals (collecting historical unscheduled component demand data)."

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(Specification, paragraph 57). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed subject matter cited in the rejection under 35 U.S.C.§ 112, first paragraph, finds support in the specification.

In the Office Action, claims 1–5 and 7–14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner cites the preamble of claim 1. Applicant hereby amends the preamble of claim 1 and respectfully submits that that the rejection of claim 1 is moot.

The Examiner further cites the following passages of claims 1 and 7, "computing a plurality of statistical models for a probability of unscheduled component demand as a function of time and a failure rate of a component," and "using the collected historical unscheduled component demand data to select one computed statistical model from the plurality of computed statistical models." Applicant points to paragraph 32 of the specification for an example of how the collected historical data can be used to select one computed statistical model, "each of the K models is used for Poisson Regression Analysis ... and the results analyzed to determine which model gives the best estimate for λ." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this clarifies the issue raised by the Examiner, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In the Office Action, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for not reciting subject matter within one of the statutory classes. Applicant hereby amends the preamble of claims 1 and 7, which, as discussed in the telephonic interview of September 7, 2007, overcomes the rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In the Office Action, claims 1–5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Erke in view of Tegethoff. By this amendment, the subject matter of allowable claims 8 and 9 are incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, and its dependent claims 2, 5 and 12–14, are allowable over any combination of Erke and Tegethoff.

In the Office Action, claims 7 and 10–14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Erke in view of Wetzer, and further in view of Tegethoff. By this amendment, the allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 9 are hereby incorporated into independent claim 7.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is allowable over any combination of Erke, Wetzer, and Tegethoff.
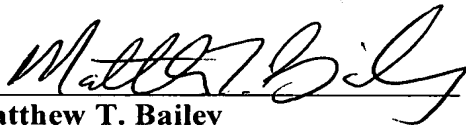
The application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: <u>September 10, 2007</u>   By_____

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